

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the present application and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Utsunomiya et al (JP 2000-181062) in view of Kinugasa et al (JP2001-058972). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner states that it would have been obvious for an ordinarily skilled artisan to use compounds such as those disclosed by JP'972 in the reaction process to make compound (2) / (3) as found in JP'062. Specifically the Examiner points to the reaction step between the glycidyl (meth)acrylate with a carboxylic acid compound having an aldehyde group or with a phenol containing aldehyde compound.

However, there are numerous glycidyl acrylates and it is extremely difficult selecting the appropriate glycidyl acrylate from the various options. Specifically, it would have been very difficult selecting the compound in JP '972, among the many glycidyl acrylates. In addition, it would have been difficult for one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to anticipate the characteristics of the reaction product, which is produced by reaction of the compound disclosed by JP'972 with a carboxylic acid compound having an aldehyde group or a phenol containing aldehyde compound in JP'062. Furthermore, JP '972 is the compound obtained from a glycidylalkyl (meth) acrylate for ink or coating agent such as paint (see section [0032] of JP'972). Thus, JP'972 is in a different technical field from JP'062 and the selection would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Additionally, while described in section [0008] of the present application, JP'972 does not disclose that the (meth) acrylic derivatives can be used in aqueous or water-containing compositions. Furthermore, water-solubility of the derivatives is not confirmed in the descriptions. Therefore, it would have been extremely difficult and would not have been obvious to combine JP '972 with JP '062 having characteristics which can be developed by an aqueous developer. Furthermore, claims 8 to 10 clearly relate to water and cannot be anticipated from and would not have been obvious over JP '062 in view of JP '972.

Finally, though the Examiner stated that the compounds disclosed by JP '972 are analogs of the compounds used in the making of formula (2) / (3) in JP '062, JP '972 is different (as the Examiner stated) from JP '062 with regard to "-R2-O-." The saponified poly(vinyl acetate)-based photosensitive resin having "-R2-O-" in the present invention exhibits unexpectedly excellent characteristics such as very high sensitivity. Therefore, the compounds disclosed by JP '972 cannot be considered analogs of the compounds used in the making of formula (2) / (3) in JP '062.

CONCLUSION

Based on the Remarks above, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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